

C. Remarks

The claims are 6-15 with claims 6 and 11 being independent. Claims 2-5 have been cancelled. New claims 6-15 have been added. Support for these new claims may be found, *inter alia*, in the specification at page 11, lines 14-19, page 22, lines 15-17, page 31, line 15 - page 32, line 18, and in Figs. 3G1 and 4D1. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,231 B1 (Iwasaki '231). Claims 2-5 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-36 of U.S. Application No. 09/867,611 (Iwasaki '611). Claims 2-4 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-19 of U.S. Application No. 10/385,570 (Den). Claim 5 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-19 of Den in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,313,969 B1 (Hattori). Claims 2-5 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-50 of U.S. Application No. 10/656,242 (Yasui '242) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,618,448 (Kuroe). Claims 2-5 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-50 of U.S. Application No. 09/964,781 (Yasui '781) in view of Kuroe. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, solely to expedite prosecution, claims 2-5 have been cancelled. Therefore, the above double patenting rejections are moot and should be withdrawn. Applicants submit that the new claims are not a double patenting of the claims in Iwasaki '231, Iwasaki '611, Den, Yasui '242 and

Yasui '781 at least for the same reasons as those mentioned below with respect to art rejections.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by EP 0 951 047 A2 (Iwasaki '047). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Iwasaki '611 or Iwasaki '231. Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,602,620 B1 (Kikitsu) in view of Kuroe. Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hattori in view of Kuroe. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

While Applicants disagree with the Examiner, solely to expedite prosecution, without acquiescence to the propriety of the above rejections, claims 2-5 have been cancelled. Therefore, these rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Iwasaki '047, Iwasaki '611, Iwasaki '231, Kikitsu, Hattori, Kuroe, whether considered separately, or in any combination, cannot affect the patentability of new claims 6-15.¹ These documents fail to disclose or suggest the combination of elements recited at least in independent claims 6 and 11. Specifically, Applicants submit that the cited documents do not disclose or suggest a structure having an electrical conductor, an insulator formed on the conductor and an anodized layer formed on the insulator, in which structure (i) the insulator has a first group of holes and the anodized layer has a second group of holes, and the holes of the first group

¹ Applicants note that Iwasaki '611 and Iwasaki '231 are not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)/103. Specifically, both Iwasaki documents and the subject application are assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. The assignment in Iwasaki '611 and in Iwasaki '231 is recorded at reel 009970, frame 0423. The assignment in the subject application is recorded at reel 011321, frame 0226.

are connected with the respective holes of the second group; or (ii) the insulator and the anodized layer have columnar parts, and a bottom of the columnar parts contacts the electrical conductor.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections be withdrawn and the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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